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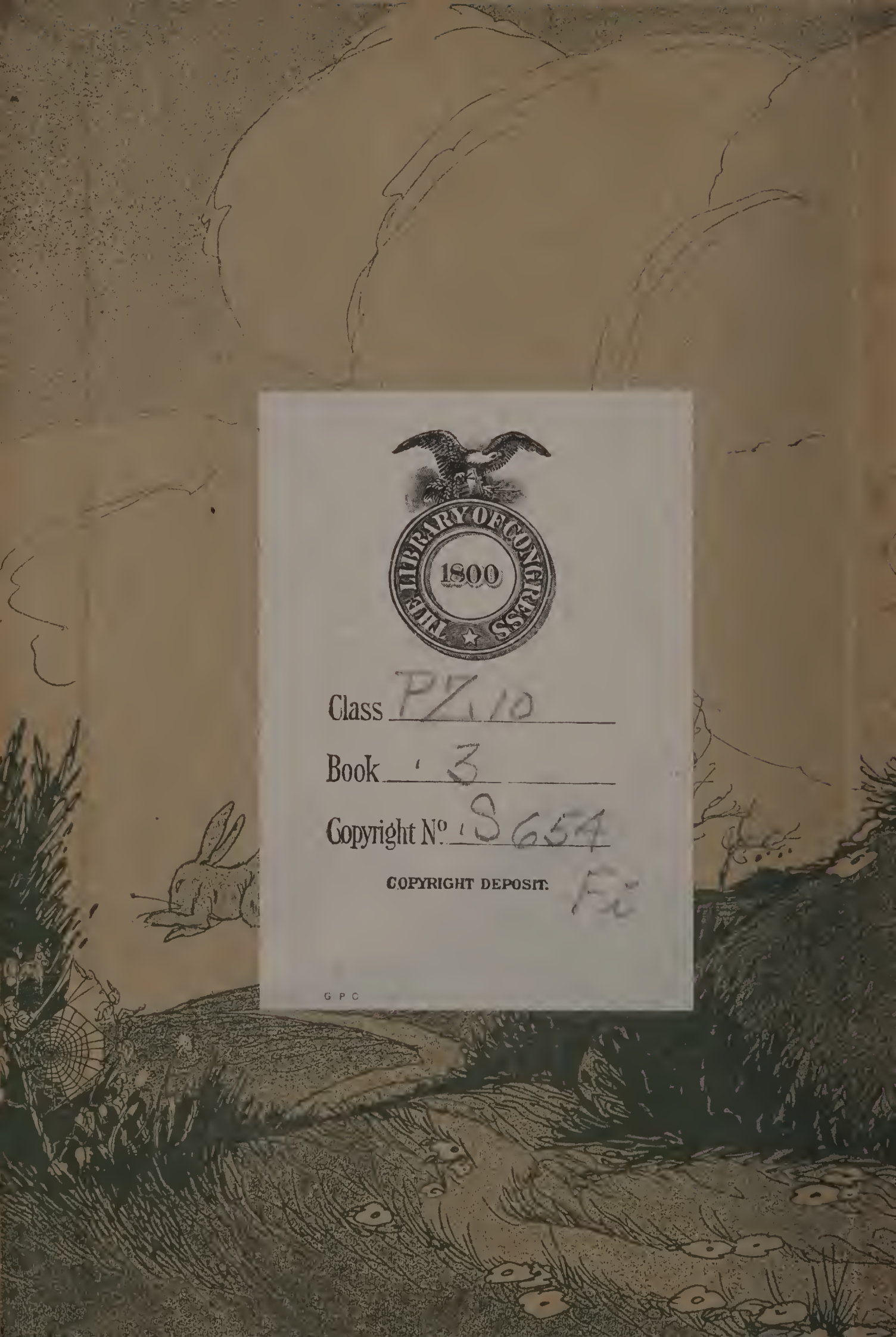
FIFTY FUNNY ANIMAL TALES

WRITTEN BY
LAURA ROUNTREE SMITH

A JUST RIGHT BOOK

J.J. MORA'S FAMOUS ANIMAL PICTURES



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FIFTY FUNNY ANIMAL TALES

The Magic Boots

FIFTY FUNNY ANIMAL TALES

WRITTEN BY
LAURA ROUNTREE SMITH
AUTHOR OF HAPPY MANIKIN-COMICAL CIRCUS STORIES-
TIDDLY WINKS BOOKS-JOLLY POLLY-CURLY TAIL-ETC.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
JOSEPH J. MORA

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FIFTY FUNNY ANIMAL TALES

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PREFACE

This book contains short stories of animals that will charm the children. Such characters as the Funny Fox, the Happy Hare, the Willful Wolf, the Careful Cat and many others appear.

Useful proverbs are woven into these tales. The stories will be of special use to teachers and parents who want to teach as well as to have a story for entertainment.

The verses heading the stories, the little jingles throughout the tales and the beautiful illustrations, add much to the attractiveness of the book.

One cannot help but laugh at the tricks of the Funny Fox and the Fairy Tales he relates. They will be enjoyed by all.

The cunning of the Funny Fox in defending himself, the wonderful Feast and the arrival of the Wooden Horse upon the scene of action will please the youthful readers.

If love makes this old world go round,
LAUGHTER we have often found,
Makes us happy as can be,
So read this book and LAUGH with me.

FIFTY STORIES

Funny Fox
Willful Wolf
Big Brother Bear
Careful Cat
Homeless Hare
Happy Hare
Cheerful Cock
A Friend in Need
Bold Badger
Amiable Ape
The Wolf's Escape
Little Hill Men
Comical Crow
Daring Dog
Fairy Gold
Aunty Ape
Magic Boots
In the Woods
Lordly Lion
The Throne
The Escape
King and Queen
The Judge
A Soft Answer
The Gold and Jewels
The Magic Comb
The Lessons
The Duel
Magic Horse
The Prince
The Invitations
Comical Crane
Dressing Up
The Joke
Shy Squirrel
Solemn Stork
Lazy Leopard
What They Said
Not For Me
Awaiting the Guests
Be Prompt
Before the Rest
Welcome
Smile Bag
The Merry Time
Singing
The Riddle
Wooden Horse
The Crown
The Message

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The Smile Bag

FIFTY FUNNY ANIMAL TALES

I Prefer a Chicken I Do Declare

FUNNY FOX

The Funny Fox and the Bold Badger, walking on the road To-No-Place-in-Particular, met the Happy Hare singing,

"I'm a Happy Hare, I do declare,
I go here, and there, and everywhere."

The Funny Fox winked his eye and said,

"It is only a quarter after ten,
Come, visit me now in my den."

The Bold Badger, though a great friend of the Funny Fox, remarked suddenly,

"I forgot something I had to borrow,
Good-bye 'till the day after to-morrow."

He scampered off in the opposite direction.

Now, the Happy Hare stood with her hand up to her face and looked foolish; then she said,

"Mother said, 'if you talk to a stranger
You may find yourself in danger.' "

The Funny Fox laughed loud and long, for he was well known by every animal in the woods. He remarked,

"I'll tell you a story in my den,
You will be contented then."

So they went clippety, clippety, clip, till they came to the Funny Fox's den, and in they went.

The Funny Fox said,

"You are such a Happy Hare,
Won't you take the rocking chair?"

Then he sat down in the corner and began his story.

He said,

"Once upon a time I met a Hopeless Hare. He had, by the way, ears just like you."

The Happy Hare waved her ears nervously to and fro.

"I gave the Hopeless Hare a fine breakfast and dinner and supper, and his eyes twinkled just like yours do."

At this, the Happy Hare winked very hard.

The Funny Fox continued,

> "She twitched her nose, and I suppose
> Why she did this goodness knows!"

The Happy Hare twitched her nose and waved her long ears suddenly.

The Funny Fox continued,

> "I got water hot in my little pot,
> I thought I would roast her, like as not,
> She would boil and boil and never stop
> Unless she went off hippety-hop."

The Happy Hare gave one startled look round the den and, with a hop, skip, and bound, she was off and away! Off flew her hat and her shadow looked longer and longer in the sunlight.

The Funny Fox ran after her to his doorway and then he sat down and laughed loud and long, for he really meant no harm this time; he was only joking.

He laughed until his sides shook, and said,

"THERE'S MANY A SLIP 'TWIXT THE CUP AND LIP."

He continued, talking to himself,

"I wouldn't have eaten that Happy Hare,
I prefer a chicken I do declare."

"Who said chicken?" cried a voice, and the Willful Wolf stood in the doorway leading to the den.

WILLFUL WOLF

To-day I introduce to you,
The Willful Wolf who plays tricks too,
These animals all try to please,
But one another they will tease.

The Funny Fox pricked up his ears.

"Chicken or young lambs are all the same to me," he said, so off he and the Willful Wolf went, trip, trip, tripping along.

Bye and bye they came in view of a field where the young lambs were. There was a hill leading to the field called "Tumble-Down Hill," and the Willful Wolf knew every inch of the ground, for he had lived there about all his life. He knew every hole and rock and pitfall, and had had many a tumble himself. He also knew the safe places to travel on Tumble-Down Hill.

He suggested a race, and the Funny Fox, suspecting nothing, joined heartily. In less than no time he fell and hurt his foot, and the Willful Wolf reached the fold and went off with a young lamb, saying: "Where are you, Funny Fox? Why are you so slow? There are plenty of young lambs, here. Well, as I won the race I will go off with the prize."

The Willful Wolf went off with the young lamb.

At this very minute the Bold Badger came clippety, clippety, clip along. He walked on the whole sole of his foot, as is the habit with badgers, and he said,

> "By my long hair, I do declare,
> The Funny Fox is lying there."

The Funny Fox said, "Why do you come walking along so slowly? Can't you see I need help, for I have had an accident.

The Bold Badger, though a solitary fellow, really liked the Funny Fox and his capers, and remarked that he would go borrow a wheelbarrow to take him home.

The Willful Wolf Went Off With the Young Lamb

The Bold Badger was soon wheeling the Funny Fox toward his den, and as they went he said in a sing-song kind of way, "I wonder why you call me a Bold Badger, for I am naturally a little shy and seldom go about except at night.

"My ancestors in Scotland and England went by the name of 'Brock,' and in some parts of England today I am called 'Grey.'

"My cousins, the Sand Bear and Indian Bear, look much like me."

The Funny Fox had not heard a single word the Bold Badger had said, for, as they jogged along the road to Somewhere-in-Particular, his old head full of plans for teasing other animals, he fell asleep.

So the Bold Badger left him asleep in the wheelbarrow outside his den, and said to himself, as he thought of the many times the Funny Fox had played tricks and that the Willful Wolf had outwitted him, "IT IS A LONG LANE THAT HAS NO TURNING."

BIG BROTHER BEAR

"Big Brother Bear you should beware,
The Fox is tricky I declare,
Even though you long for honey,
I would not trust him for much money."

The Funny Fox had a sore foot only a short time, but he made the most of it, and limped along sometimes just to be sly and cunning.

One day he was limping along when he met Old Brother Bear. "How do you do?" he asked politely.

Old Brother Bear asked, "What makes you limp this morning?"

The Funny Fox replied, "Alas! I hurt my paw and cannot walk another step, and it is sad, for I was going to the tree the woodman has cut down, to get some honey! I can see the tree where it has fallen, but cannot walk another step!"

Old Brother Bear said, "I will get the honey. You wait here for me." He went on, smacking his lips. How he did like honey! No sooner had he reached the tree than he plunged in the opening head first. The Funny Fox ran hastily and took out some wedges in the tree and Old Brother Bear could not pull his head out. He was caught as though in a trap.

"How do you like the honey?" asked the Funny Fox.

Just then the Bold Badger came trip, trip, tripping along. He laughed when he saw Old Brother Bear's discomfort, but he said it was a shame to fool him when there was no honey in the tree. Then he whispered something to the Funny Fox: "Let us help him out and I will show him a hive where the bees are swarming, but we can make him go in and get real honey for us."

Old Brother Bear was so thankful to the Bold Badger for helping him out that he readily agreed to his plan, and the three went along till they came to three bee hives that stood in a row.

The Funny Fox said, "You go now and get honey for us and you shall have half of all you bring out."

Old Brother Bear said, "I dare not go, for the bees are swarming and I will get stung."

The Funny Fox winked at the Bold Badger and said, "If you are so afraid, the Bold Badger will go and get a sip of honey first to show you the bees here are harmless."

The Bold Badger did this, and, though the bees came all about him, he did not get stung, because his hide is such no insect can sting him.

Old Brother Bear, seeing he came to no harm, plunged in, and my! how he howled! He got stung and carried a swollen face for a week.

The Funny Fox and Bold Badger went off down the road.

After that Old Brother Bear knew enough to leave bee hives alone, which shows that "A BURNT CHILD DREADS THE FIRE."

Funny Fox and Bold Badger Went Off Down the Road

Every animal he met for a week asked, "Have you the toothache? Why is your head tied up, Old Brother Bear?" To which he replied,

> "I'm not sure I heard just what you said,
> Perhaps it's the fashion to tie up the head."

So I think Old Brother Bear had a laugh after all, for to this day many animals do not know what was the matter with him.

CAREFUL CAT

The Careful Cat said, "I cannot tell
How many times I fell down the well,
To remember, what is the use,
Let us consult Old Mother Goose."

Once upon a time the Careful Cat heard a bell ringing and a great cry arose,

"Ding, dong, bell,
Pussy is in the well."

She kept under cover, but crept up into a tall tree to see what was happening.

After a while many animals passed by on their way home from market, and they peeped in the well but could see no one.

A voice cried,

"Put down the rope and draw me out,
Or Puss will be drowned without a doubt."

While the animals were busy putting down the rope the Fox, who had on his invisible

cloak, hopped out of the well and seized the largest basket and went merrily homeward.

"I will remember his slyness," remarked the Careful Cat.

> "Be very careful what you do,
> Don't let him play a trick on you."

whistled the Merry Wind.

One day a little later the Careful Cat was watching for mice in a barn when the Funny Fox came by and said,

> "If you take the road that leads to the mill
> There are so many mice you can get your fill."

The Careful Cat thought it over all day, and when moonlight came she said to the Funny Fox, "Maybe I would stumble in the moonlight."

The Funny Fox only said,

> "There are so many mice, a million or more,
> They are right outside the old mill-door."

The Careful Cat decided to go at once, and laughed at the idea of catching so many mice.

The Merry Wind whistled again,

> "Be very careful what you do,
> Don't let him play a trick on you."

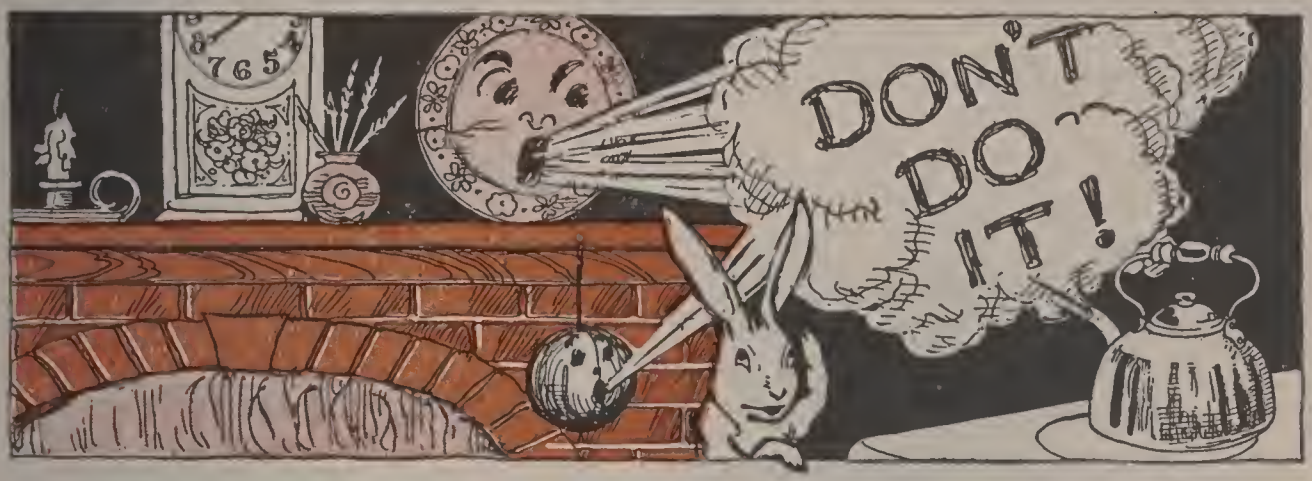
When Moonlight Came

The Cat reached the mill door and was going to catch a fat mouse when he was caught himself in a trap.

The Funny Fox slipped away, but the mill owner and others caught the Cat and gave him a beating because they thought he had stolen their chickens. When loose, the Careful Cat was so angry he jumped and jumped and behaved in a funny manner.

The Funny Fox said, as he went off,

"HE LAUGHS BEST WHO LAUGHS LAST."



Cried the China Plate

HOMELESS HARE

Oh Homeless Hare, I do declare,
Of the Funny Fox beware,
This cunning creature of the wood,
Is very seldom if ever good.

One day the Homeless Hare went "clippety, clippety, clip" along the woods and when he came to the den of the Funny Fox he stepped inside and said, "By my long whiskers and stubby tail I smell pot-roast; by my twinkling eyes I smell cabbage; by my wrinkling, twinkling nose I smell molasses."

He went nearer and nearer the entrance to the den, and the Funny Fox peeped out and said,

"You're looking thinner, very much thinner,
Come in a while and stay to dinner."

There was an old-fashioned plate on the mantlepiece and it cried out, for it had seen things happen before,

"Don't do it," cried the china plate.
"For your dinner you'd better wait."

Then another voice piped up,

"Don't do it," called the coffee pot.
"He will play a trick as like as not!"

Still another voice warned him,

"Don't do it," cried the rubber ball,
"He is not a gracious host at all."

The Teakettle bubbled over in excitement, saying,

"Stop a minute—think again,
Don't stay in the Fox's den."

In spite of all this, the Homeless Hare came on into the Fox's den.

There sat a table spread for three,
Mrs. Fox said, "We're glad of company."

Just as the Homeless Hare took his seat, before he could unfold his napkin, the Funny Fox said, "Let me examine your new necktie," and he sprang at him.

Over went the table; over went the roast, cabbage and molasses.

The Homeless Hare thought his end had surely come, when a shot was fired and the Foxes ran back into another part of the den. A few minutes after the hunters had passed by, the Homeless Hare crept out of the den. He had always supposed that the hunters were his enemies. Now he said, "A FRIEND IN NEED IS A FRIEND INDEED."

HAPPY HARE

Oh Happy Hare, take care, take care,
The Fox will play tricks everywhere,
And if you trust him, some fine day
He'll play a trick on you I say.

The Happy Hare loved to dress up in other people's clothes.

One day he put on a little red jacket with long, trailing sleeves, and a little red cap and went "trip, trip, tripping" along through the woods.

He met the Funny Fox, who said,

"I am out for frolic and for fun,
I'll give you a costume like a nun."

The Happy Hare put on a dress over his costume and journeyed on with the Funny Fox, who said,

"I will teach you a little song,
The tune is easy, the words not long."

The Happy Hare was very anxious to learn to sing, so he said the words over and over while the Funny Fox hummed the tune and beat time with a hickory stick.

They sang the words to the tune of "Twinkle, Little Star," and they were these:

To all animals be kind,
Gently try to make them mind,
We will love you if you think,
To give us some food and drink.

The Happy Hare said, "The Funny Fox is in the best kind of humor today."

Suddenly, without any warning, a strange thing happened.

The Funny Fox sprang at the Happy Hare and tore his dress and took a slice off one ear, if you please, before he could escape!

Bye and bye, when the Happy Hare had recovered from his fright, he said, "That was a cute little song. I am glad to learn it, anyway." He felt somehow that he had better hurry home for a wise old owl said to him, "DO NOT CROW UNTIL YOU ARE OUT OF THE WOODS."

On the Door Was a Sign

CHEERFUL COCK

The Cheerful Cock said, "To the Fox's den
I will go, I can't tell you tho' just when,
I'll accuse him of everything he's done,
And make him pay for his reckless fun."

One day the Cheerful Cock was angry as could be, for he woke to find his Aunt Matilda and Uncle Jim and fifteen of his cousins gone out of the barnyard.

He knew the Funny Fox was to blame for the Merry Wind told him so.

For once, the Cheerful Cock was sad and he made out a list of all the complaints he had to make, and he wrote them down on paper. Putting on his best spurs, off he went to the Fox's den.

On the den door was a sign, "Gone for a walk by the garden wall."

Now it happened that the Funny Fox had heard that the Cheerful Cock was very angry as indeed he should be, so he had put on the dress of a monk hoping no one would know him in his disguise.

The Cheerful Cock was near-sighted and took him for a real monk and so he recited his troubles thinking he had a kind, sympathetic listener.

He did not see the Fox's long sharp nose.

He did not notice his bushy-tail.

Just as he was through his story of wrongs the pious-looking monk (for it was no other than the Funny Fox), made a spring at him, and the Cheerful Cock had just time to fly over the garden wall!

He had thought the monk handsome in his fine clothes, but now he called back "HANDSOME IS AS HANDSOME DOES."

A FRIEND IN NEED

Oh Funny Fox take care, take care,
This saying is very true,
The animals say everywhere,
They will play a trick on you.

One day the Funny Fox roasted a great, fat turkey and said, "Though it is a little before Thanksgiving, I am going to eat my turkey now."

"Trip-trap," sounded little feet, "Rap, a-tap" sounded the knocker.

The Funny Fox went to the door and saw no one, but a voice said,

"Turkey's not good, so I've heard say
Without cranberries on Thanksgiving Day."

The Funny Fox waved his long ears to and fro and went back to carve his turkey.

He had just picked up his knife when, "patter, patter, clitter, clatter," went little feet and "thump, thump," went the knocker again and a voice cried out,

"You'll dislike the turkey like as not,
Without potatoes smoking hot."

The Funny Fox lashed his beautiful tail and said, "Some one is playing a joke on me." He went back and carved one leg off the great, fat turkey and was just going to begin to eat his dinner, when "Ting-a-ling," went the telephone and he answered, as a voice called,

"Don't eat your turkey for by and by
You can have some pumpkin pie."

The voice went on and on, keeping the Funny Fox at the telephone and he was annoyed you may be sure.

When he got back to the little table the turkey was gone, drum stick and all!

He set up such a howl that the Bold Badger who was going by stopped in to see what was the matter.

It was an hour and seventeen minutes before the Funny Fox stopped roaring.

The Bold Badger then said, "As tomorrow will be Thanksgiving Day, come and take dinner with me, and bring Mrs. Fox and Freddie and Freda Fox.

Mrs. Fox was pleased when she heard they were all invited and said, "A FRIEND IN NEED IS A FRIEND INDEED."

BOLD BADGER

The Foxes live in a little den
Way down in the leafy glen,
But now they all are on their way
To celebrate Thanksgiving Day.

The Funny Fox, and Mrs. Fox, and Freddie and Freda Fox went merrily through the woods to the Bold Badger's house.

They all gave their fur an extra brush and wore their best bibs and tuckers.

The Bold Badger lived in a burrow, and he stood by the entrance to it and made all his visitors welcome.

In they went, and at last found themselves in a large room with a table set with plates and a great pitcher of honey.

The Bold Badger even had a flower in a flower-pot on the window-sill.

They wore bibs so as to keep clean and the

turkey was so very heavy Mrs. Fox insisted on helping bring it in. She brought it on a great platter, and it was smoking hot.

When it was set on the table the Funny Fox laughed until his sides ached, for it had only one leg and looked like the very same turkey he had sat down to, the day before!

The animals had a regular Thanksgiving feast with all sorts of good things and the little Foxes behaved very well considering their nature, though Mrs. Fox continually said,

> "Good girls and boys don't make a noise,
> Sit up if you're able, and don't pound the table."

They had a merry meal and the Bold Badger said, "One day lately I peeped in, and saw you had been to the Barber, please tell us about it."

The Funny Fox remarked, "Ill news travels fast," and he sat back comfortably to tell the story.

AMIABLE APE

The Amiable Ape, so the story goes,
Is a Barber as you suppose,
If you have her trim your ruff
Be sure to say, "Enough is enough."

The Funny Fox said, "The other day I went to visit the Amiable Ape, our lady Barber, to get a hair cut, I sat down in her chair and as her shears went "snip, snip, snip," she said,

"See that picture on the wall,
The Lion who is King of all."

The Funny Fox said, "I got so interested in looking at the Lordly Lion in his handsome robe, and I so admired his crown, while the Amiable Ape's shears went "snip, snip, snip," that I never gave a thought to what she was doing, until as bad luck would have it, I was shorn like a lamb!

Now, I have to wear clothing to keep warm, and the Amiable Ape said to me as I went out,

"Look in the mirror as you go out,
You'll like your appearance beyond a doubt."

I was so angry I nearly tumbled over her servant as she was bringing in the oil to finish the hair dressing,

The Amiable Ape called after me,

"I left fur on your tail and toes,
That will help some, I suppose!"

I was so angry to find the Amiable Ape had been playing a trick on me, for she was usually my friend, but still I was thankful to have some fur left, which reminds me of the saying, "HALF A LOAF IS BETTER THAN NO BREAD."

To change the subject the Bold Badger said,

"I've heard that story once or twice,
Let's all go skating on the ice."

So out they went, and while the Bold Badger was fitting his skates on, many interesting things happened.

The Amiable Ape Said to Me

THE WOLF'S ESCAPE

If you are the Wolf who owns a tail,
To mind mother you should not fail,
If it's too early to begin,
Don't skate when the ice is thin.

The Funny Fox saw something that amused him. He saw the Willful Wolf with his tail stuck fast in a hole in the ice. He had once told the Willful Wolf he could catch a meal of fish in this way!

The Willful Wolf called,

"Help me out, help me out,
Or I'll stick fast beyond a doubt."

All the Poplar trees heard his cry, and all the Cat-Tails and grasses swayed to and fro in the wind.

"What will you give me if I help you out?" asked the Funny Fox.

The Willful Wolf said,

"I will give you my bag with money in it,
Please do not wait another minute."

"That is not enough," said the Funny Fox.

The Willful Wolf said,

"I will give you my coat with the collar too,
Come, hurry up whatever you do!"

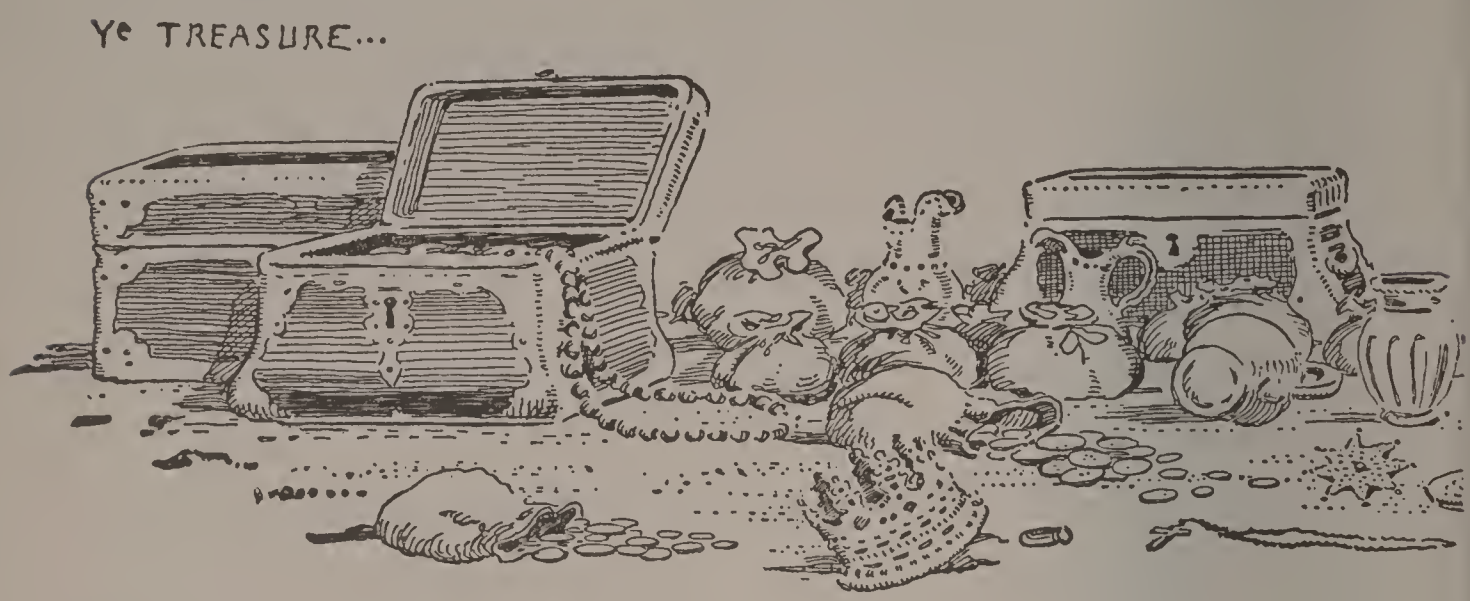
The Funny Fox said, "That is not enough." The Willful Wolf said,

"I will give you my fur-lined shoes,
You can help me if you choose."

The Funny Fox had long envied the Willful Wolf his shoes, so he gave a great pull and helped him out, and by this time a great crowd of animals had gathered to see what was going on.

The Funny Fox took the Willful Wolf's presents and threw them to the Bold Badger for safe keeping, and dragged the Willful Wolf along, for he was nearly frozen. He was stopped by two Leopards who were soldiers for the King, for they thought he was harming the Wolf.

It was only by a cunning trick that the Funny Fox escaped. He had hoped to make a meal of the Willful Wolf but had to leave him instead, which shows, "YOU CAN'T COUNT YOUR CHICKENS BEFORE THEY ARE HATCHED."



LITTLE HILL MEN

Little Hill Men so I am told,
On moonlight nights go dig for gold,
So have a care Little Hill Men,
The Fox may take it to his den.

One moonlight night the Funny Fox and Mrs. Fox went out to see what they could see! To their delight they saw the Little Hill Men were digging gold and singing,

"We're Little Hill Men, it's very funny
We dig, and dig, and dig, for money!"

"Click, click, click," went their little spades,

"Clatter, clatter, clatter," went the coins in their little bags.

The Funny Fox said to Mrs. Fox, "You wait here until I blow the whistle." Then he went into plain view where the Little Hill Men could see him, and he danced the most wonderful dance.

He danced and sang,

"Dance in the moonlight, it is pleasure,
To trip to music's joyous measure."

The first Little Hill Man stopped digging.

The second Little Hill Man stopped to watch him.

Soon they all stopped to see the Funny Fox dancing in the moonlight. They called,

"The Little Hill Men all advance,
Come Fox, and teach us how to dance."

The Funny Fox answered without even winking an eye,

"You can never dance so I am told,
Laden with your bags of gold."

All the Little Hill Men unstrapped the bags of gold from round their waists, and laid them on the ground.

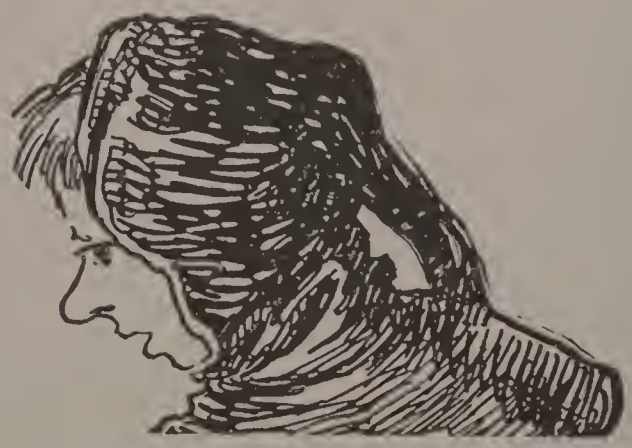
The Funny Fox said,

"Close your eyes 'till I count ninety-three,
Then a wonderful dancer each one shall be."

So, the Little Hill Men closed their eyes and danced the new step until the Fox had counted to ninety-three, and they counted so loud they did not notice that his voice came from farther and farther off. When they looked about the Funny Fox and their gold had disappeared, and they said, thinking of their hurry to learn to dance, "HASTE MAKES WASTE."

There was nothing left for them to do, but to take up their little shovels again singing,

"We're Little Hill Men, Little Hill Men,
We frolic and play now and then,
Of the dance we all had a taste,
But have learned that HASTE MAKES WASTE."



COMICAL CROW

The Comical Crow has a tale of woe,
And this is a story you ought to know,
He's a wonderful Bird—he can fly and walk,
And sometimes he can even talk,
He says, "The Funny Fox one day,
Out in the meadow came and lay,
He pretended he was fast asleep,
So nearer and nearer the wheat I'd creep,
He came suddenly so wide awake,
Too late we learned our sad mistake,
My friends he caught upon that day
But I spread my wings and flew away,
The Fox is cunning and very shy,
To be his friend I'll never try,
I will travel as far as I choose
To tell on the Fox I'll spread the news."

Which shows that "LITTLE LEAKS SINK GREAT SHIPS."

DARING DOG

Of the Funny Fox beware,
He's full of tricks you know,
So when you see him have a care
Which way you'd better go.

Once upon a time the Funny Fox was very hungry for he had had no breakfast and he went through the woods to see what he could see.

By and by to his delight he saw the Daring Dog with a great piece of meat which he had stolen from the market.

He was running homeward over a bridge as fast as his legs could carry him.

"My! what beautiful legs you have," shouted the Funny Fox.

The Daring Dog slowed down a little.

"My! what a cunning tail you have," cried the Funny Fox.

The Daring Dog wagged his tail, pleased with the compliment.

"My! what wonderful ears you have," said the Funny Fox. The Daring Dog moved his ears to and fro.

With a Great Piece of Meat

The Funny Fox had now caught up with him and as he ran alongside of him said, "My! what bright eyes you have, but I suppose you really have ugly teeth and that spoils your whole appearance!"

This offended the Daring Dog and he dropped the meat a second, to show his pearly teeth.

The Funny Fox stole the meat, and was off and away before the Daring Dog could say a word. He remarked that the Funny Fox would have a good meal anyway, and if the butcher should see him running now it was the Fox who would be punished, which shows, "IT IS AN ILL-WIND THAT BLOWS NOBODY ANY GOOD."

FAIRY GOLD

If you dig for Fairy Gold,
You must be careful so I am told,
Never to let the secret out,
Or it will vanish beyond a doubt!

The Funny Fox called to Mrs. Fox one moonlight night.

"We will take the wheelbarrow old,
And we'll dig for Fairy Gold."

So off they started, Old Mrs. Fox riding in the wheelbarrow until they came to the place where the Fox wanted to dig for hidden treasure.

"Click, click, click," went his spade in the ground.

"Hurrah! hurrah! hurrah!" he cried as he dug out two boxes and continued to dig up more gold then he had ever dreamed of.

They lost no time you may be sure in filling the wheelbarrow with the treasure and took turns in wheeling it homeward. They made plans for spending some of the loose coins, and they decided to hide the rest away.

They even planned to make a present to the Bold Badger, who was their faithful friend.

As they went homeward the Funny Fox said over and over "MONEY IS A GOOD SERVANT."

The moon laughed as he saw the Funny Fox hide his gold away for he knew if one steals Fairy Gold bad luck will follow him unless he gives it up.

AUNTY APE

The little Foxes without fail,
Like to hear a Good Night Tale,
So says the Funny Fox, "Ho, ho,
I'll tell a story of Poverty Row."

He began by saying, One night I went to visit Old Aunty Ape, and her children Anna, Arthur and Alice, who lived in a shanty in Poverty Row.

They looked so poor and forlorn and had little if any clothing on, and their place was so poorly furnished that I did not quite know what to say.

A spider web even hung over their door, but there was a smell of good cooking which attracted me.

So, taking off my cap with the bonnie feather upon it, and making my very best bow I inquired if I might stay and have a few pancakes.

To my surprise Aunty Ape served me an elegant meal, and then I told the children a sleepy story and Anna began to nod and Arthur began to grow sleepy, and Alice began to yawn, and Aunty Ape's head went nid-nodding, and soon they were all fast asleep, and I went to the pantry and helped myself to a fine, fat chicken all nicely cooked. I left a few coins on the platter.

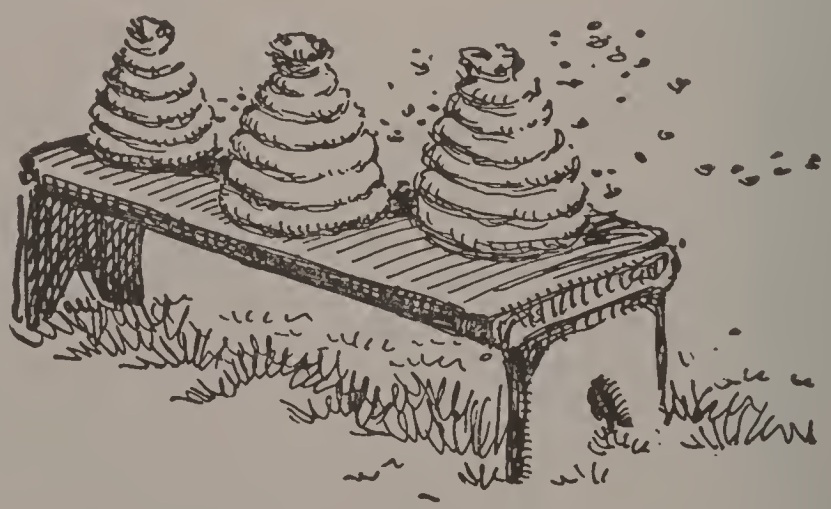
Coming out, I told the Willful Wolf of my good fortune.

He said, "I will go in and visit them at once."

He was shocked by their poverty and homely appearance and said, "Aunty Ape why don't you get the children some clothes? Why don't you brush the cobwebs from your door? You poor creatures I am sorry for you, but never-the-less I am hungry, so will you give me a bite to eat?"

Aunty Ape boxed his right ear and his left ear and the Willful Wolf came out howling,

with nothing to show for his call but a pair of lame ears, which proves that my kind words stood me in good stead for "SUGAR CATCHES MORE FLIES THAN VINEGAR."



MAGIC BOOTS

Careful Cat and Old Brother Bear
Look out on Christmas Eve,
Careful Cat and Old Brother Bear,
The Foxes often deceive.

One December the Funny Fox heard that Old Brother Bear had magic boots in which he could travel a mile a minute, and that the Careful Cat had such wonderful spectacles that she could see what was going to happen in the future, when she looked through them, so he decided to invite them to hang up their stockings in his den on Christmas Eve.

They were happy to come and hang up their stockings of course and the Funny Fox built a splendid bonfire outside the den, so they sat about in comfort waiting for Santa Claus to call. Meanwhile Mrs. Fox filled the stocking full of nuts and candy, and said Santa Claus might come the other way, as there was another opening to the den!

The Funny Fox said, "Old Brother Bear, let me try on your boots a minute, to see if they

would fit me." Then to the Careful Cat he said, "Just let me try on your spectacles a minute to see if Santa Claus is coming."

The animals readily consented and at this very minute was heard the "tinkle, tinkle, tinkle," of sleigh-bells and Mrs. Fox said, "Hurry, hurry, you may get a glimpse of Santa Claus."

Old Brother Bear forgot his magic boots, and the Careful Cat forgot the wonderful spectacles.

They hurried into the den.

There stood the well filled stockings, so they shouted "Hurrah! hurrah! for Santa Claus."

They hurried out to see him but he was nowhere to be found, and the Funny Fox had walked off a mile with the magic boots, and what he saw through the wonderful spectacles there is no way of knowing.

Old Mrs. Fox said, "You got your stockings filled anyway."

The Careful Cat remarked to Old Brother Bear as they went homeward, "THEY WHO PLAY WITH EDGED TOOLS MUST EXPECT TO BE CUT."

IN THE WOODS

The Bold Badger says in greeting,
"The animals all hold a meeting,
So Funny Fox, come on, let's go
Or their secrets we'll not know!"

The two animals went "trip, trap," through the woods and sure enough they found a great group of animals talking as they sat in a circle.

When the Willful Wolf saw the Funny Fox and Bold Badger appear he took off his glove and threw it down saying, "Here I throw down the gauntlet, and command you to fight before the Lordly Lion, who will set the day and hour!"

"Softly, softly," said the Funny Fox. "My Lord the King of Beasts is ill with fever, and we will have to put off the fight."

Laughing, the Funny Fox and Bold Badger departed, but the animals all decided to go soon to the Lordly Lion and tell him of the tricks the Funny Fox played upon them.

This was all very well until the Willful Wolf asked in a loud voice, "Who will be the first to make complaint?"

One by one the animals slipped out of the circle and the Willful Wolf was left all alone.

He laughed until his old sides shook, and then rang a bell, at which all the animals returned.

He said, "We will all tell our complaints, and I will head the list, so we will stand together against the Funny Fox."

"All except the Bold Badger," said the Wise Old Owl, "and Aunty Ape and a few other friends."

The Willful Wolf laughed at the idea of the Funny Fox having friends, and the meeting broke up in high good humor one of the animals saying "BIRDS OF A FEATHER FLOCK TOGETHER."

LORDLY LION

Oh Happy Hare take care, take care,
Be careful what you do,
The Funny Fox who takes the air,
May lie in wait for you.

One morning the Funny Fox was sighing when the Happy Hare came by.

"Why do you sigh?" asked the Happy Hare.

The Funny Fox said, "The Lordly Lion is so ill I am concerned about him, let us go and visit him."

So off the two went and found the Lordly Lion ill in bed, with his Lordly head tied up, and his Lordly crown hanging on one of the posts of the bed.

The Funny Fox whispered to him, "If you would eat the heart of a Hare it would entirely cure you."

This pleased the Lordly Lion so much that he ordered it at once, and the Happy Hare had just time to escape out the window!

The Lordly Lion did procure the heart of a Hare later and was cured, so he thought a great deal of the Fox and gave him a hamper of food which he sat down by the wayside to eat. The Fox ate till his sides stuck out and said, "ENOUGH IS AS GOOD AS A FEAST."

THE THRONE

Spring has come and now is seen,
A throne awaiting King and Queen,
Oh Funny Fox beware, beware,
For we will hold your trial there.

The Lordly Lion was coming to the woods to meet the animals and hear their complaints at last. The Queen was coming too, so the animals had a throne prepared for them.

They said, "Where is the Funny Fox? Why doesn't he help? Where is the Bold Badger? Where is Aunty Ape? Where is the Merry Monkey?"

One and all they were advising the Funny Fox to appear ill so that he would be unable to meet the King and Queen.

He laid on some leaves in his den and kept a candle burning night and day.

When the King heard he was ill, he sent him a dainty dish by special messenger, so the Funny Fox decided if the King favored him thus he would get up, so the Bold Badger went with him, but they paused in the woods while the Badger said these magic words,

"At times you may see and not be seen,
When you are tripping o'er the green,
Funny Fox heed not the strife,
Now you will lead a charmed life."

The Funny Fox felt quite secure now for he also had the magic boots and the wonderful spectacles but he did not know that the animals were going to try to scare him by showing him a gallows!

They came to the throne made ready for the King and Queen and near it hung a great rope. On inquiring what it was for, the Rollicking Ram replied,

"We are as earnest as can be,
And if you stay perhaps you'll see,
Who will be hanging from that tree."

This helps prove that "BREVITY IS THE SOUL OF WIT."

THE ESCAPE

Oh Funny Fox take care, take care,
When to the woods you go,
Your enemy is waiting there,
And you had best bow low.

When the animals gathered together waiting the arrival of the King and Queen the Funny Fox put on his spectacles and did not like the looks of the future altogether. As he was a great story-teller he said.

Once on a time the Wilful Wolf
Who thought that he was danger-proof,
Got a bone in his throat—oh my,
How the Willful Wolf did cry,
I heard him cry and heard him shout,
I sent the Crane to help him out,
He promised the Crane a pot of honey
Or else a little purse of money,
The Crane took out the bone with ease,
(He has a long bill if you please)

But he did not receive a cent of money,
Nor did he get his pot of honey,
The Wolf said, "Run home to your wife,
You should be thankful I spared YOUR life!"

The Animals thought this was so unfair in the Willful Wolf that they came near hanging *him* from the tree, but he escaped which reminds us of the saying, "A MISS IS AS GOOD AS A MILE."

THE KING AND QUEEN

The Lordly Lion on his throne,
Will hear complaint from every one,
The Lioness I do declare,
Looks like a Queen in her high chair.

Very splendid indeed was the arrival of the King and Queen in the woods, and they had splendidly attired attendants. Finally they took their places on the throne prepared for them and were ready to hear the animal's complaints.

The Lordly Lion looked very splendid in his red robe and gold crown, waving his sceptre and the Queen had two Merry Monkeys for sentinels. She wore an ermine robe which trailed to the ground, and a golden crown, and she sat intently listening.

The Funny Fox advanced and bowed humbly saying, "I am the Funny Fox, your loyal subject."

He looked meek indeed for he could see through his wonderful glasses what was going to happen.

He thought it best to take off his wonderful

glasses and present them to the Lordly Lion saying, "My Lord, allow me to offer you a gift. Put on these wonderful glasses or spectacles, as they are called, and you can read the future like an open book."

The Lordly Lion could not help being pleased.

The Reckless Ram next came forward and said,

> "Wait my Lord, 'till you hear the whole,
> I will write the proceedings on a scroll."

He had a quill pen he was anxious to use and a new sheet of paper. The animals held their breath to see what would happen.

A Piece of Sticky Flypaper on His Back

THE JUDGE

The Lordly Lion thought it fun,
To be the judge of every one,
So animals from far and near,
Were very glad to gather here.

The Careful Cat came limping along on a crutch. She had got well long ago, but put on her bandages again and came limping along on a crutch to make complaint of her treatment by the Funny Fox.

Next came Old Brother Bear storming through the forest for the Funny Fox had put a piece of sticky-fly-paper on his back to tease him.

The Careful Cat's grandmother brought a book in which she had written the doings of the Funny Fox as she had observed them through her nine lives. She presented it to the Lordly Lion to read.

The Happy Hare showed the picture of one of his cousins rescued too late from the Funny Fox, and he told of his own trial and showed his own torn ear!

The Delightful Donkey showed a meal of thistles that had been served him by the Funny Fox.

Just as Old Brother Bear was going to relate the many tricks played on him the Reckless Ram told of the time the Funny Fox's great grandmother had tricked and roasted his twenty-first cousin, and this made a thrilling tale indeed.

The Willful Wolf became excited and kept shouting, "I threw down the gauntlet, I threw down the gauntlet."

His face was the picture of rage.

A Crow Flying Over Head

The Bonnie Beaver had collected books and books telling tales on the Funny Fox, and the Pretty Pony said she could hardly train her colts at all for the Funny Fox set them such a bad example.

A Crow flying overhead paused and talked an hour, and by this time it began to look pretty bad for the Funny Fox which shows "IT IS A LONG LANE THAT HAS NO TURNING."

A SOFT ANSWER

The Lordly Lion growls and shouts,
Be careful what you are about,
Funny Fox we're here to-day
To listen to what you've to say.

The Funny Fox had heard that "A SOFT ANSWER TURNETH AWAY WRATH," so he stood upright saying, "My Lord and Master, do you remember how I helped you in your recent illness, and though I play a joke now and then, I have a really kind heart.

As for my catching poultry, I have a wife and two children to support. (Mrs. Fox and the children were near, they each sat looking as innocent as a mouse.)

Besides this, I have a sly disposition, and it is my nature to tease, as it is your nature to rule, besides this, My Lord and King, see my many friends."

There was a great rustling of branches and leaves.

In came the Bold Badger, the Shy Deer, the Ape Family and many other animals to testify for him!

Had the Lordly Lion not known the Whole Fox family for years and years, he might have set him free then and there, but a great tumult arose from the animals he had wronged, and he asked the Funny Fox to say his prayers to the Reckless Ram. Old Brother Bear acted as jailer and took the Funny Fox to jail.

The Funny Fox was sad but soon regained his humor and next day asked the Lordly Lion to visit him and hear a Fairy Tale.

THE GOLD AND THE JEWELS

If you are sad then do not fail,
To read this jolly Fairy Tale,
For Fairy Tales are often funny,
And laughter worth a mint of money.

The Lordly Lion went to visit the Funny Fox in his cell and the Funny Fox said, "Once on a time the Little Hill Men were digging, digging for gold on the hill side and I made them learn a little dance and took their gold by a cunning trick, and I hid it away for you my Lord and Master, and if you will let me go out in my Magic Boots I will be back in a short time for I procured this treasure for you."

The Lordly Lion let the Funny Fox out, and in less than no time back he came with the gold.

The King of Beasts was pleased for he wished to return the gold to the Little Hill Men, as he had heard much complaint from them and he said he would stay and listen to another Fairy Tale.

Fairy Tales if we discover,
Can be told the wide world over,
This really has a magic sound,
The lost jewels now are found.

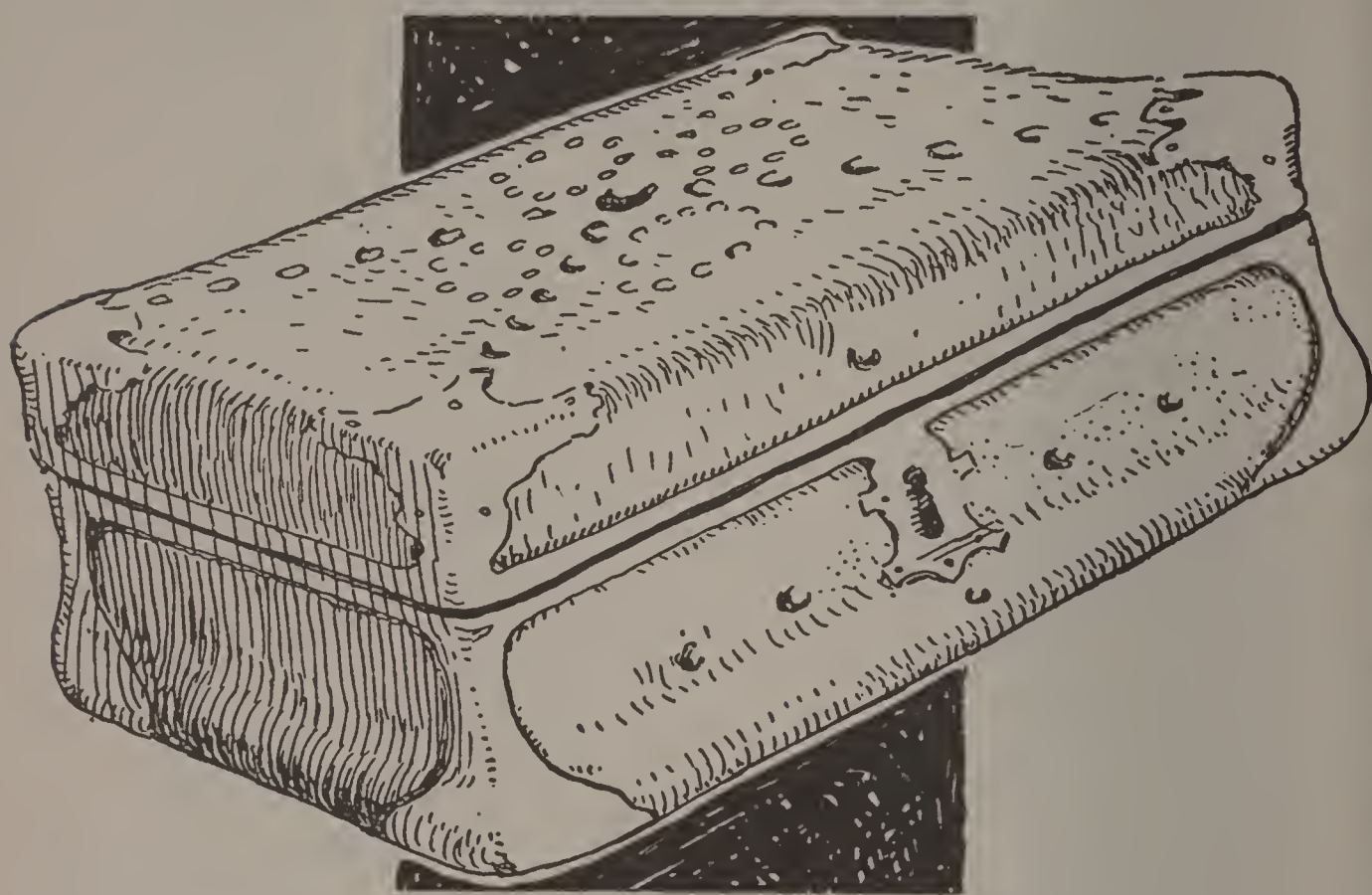
So said the Funny Fox and the Lordly Lion begged him to tell what jewels were in his lost chest.

The Funny Fox said, "As I remember it the jewels were stolen by animals long ago, and taken out the secret door of your castle. I discovered where they were, and my good wife helped me carry them safely to my den."

"Yes, yes," cried the Lordly Lion, "but tell me what was in the jewel chest."

The Funny Fox said, "Will you give me my freedom if I describe the contents of the jewel case and deliver them safely into your keeping?"

This the Lordly Lion consented to do, so the Funny Fox continued, "In the jewel chest were three smaller chests, and they contained strings of gold, and pearls, and a gold crown and many curious pitchers and vases, and bags of gold. One necklace had an eight-pointed star on the end."



In This Jewel Chest

As the Funny Fox described all these things correctly the Lordly Lion said he himself would send to his den and if the treasures were delivered over to him, he and Mrs. Fox could come to the castle and live in ease and comfort.

While the Lordly Lion sent to the den he asked the Funny Fox to tell another Fairy Tale.

THE MAGIC COMB

The Magic Comb run through your hair,
Will make you happy anywhere,
So says the song, so says the rhyme,
It's carved with scenes of olden time.

The Funny Fox produced the Magic Comb. It had quaint stories and legends carved upon it, and the Funny Fox knew them all by heart. He ran the Comb through his fur and was so happy he did not mind being in jail at all. He even forgot the Sad Bears growling in the den next him.

The King ran the Comb through his hair and was so happy he danced a jig.

The Funny Fox said, "Here is a Magic Mirror with my likeness carved on the sides and handle, one who looks in this mirror need never study history for he can see what happened in the past. Just now I see my great grandfather unjustly tried for an act committed by the Wolf."

The Lordly Lion, looking in the mirror saw the great grandfather Fox in chains, and the Owl reading his sentence.

The Lordly Lion said, "Tell me the tale of the ring and we will then go to the castle and live happily ever after."

The Funny Fox turned the Magic ring and said,

> "That shall be as you wish,
> But ducks are your favorite dish."

In came two ducks smoking hot and they had a meal.

As the Lordly Lion spoke of liking fish, in came a basket of fish and a string of fish, for the Funny Fox had only to turn the Magic Ring and the dish he asked for appeared.

Ran the Comb Through His Hair

The Lordly Lion by this time thought the Funny Fox a worthy fellow, and did not care a bit about his playing tricks on any one.

At this very minute the jewel case was brought in and the Lordly Lion presented the Funny Fox with an ermine cape and a gold crown!

The Funny Fox said,

"I am happy now at last,
I can forget all the past,
I played with matches, like as not
I forgot fire was so hot,
Many, many years ago,
I scorched my bushy tail you know,
And once the house-wife threw out bones,
And pelted me with ugly stones,
The animals often call me sly,
I never could imagine why!"

So saying, the Funny Fox slipped out with his Magic Boots on, and the Lordly Lion did not know what to make of this behavior.

THE LESSONS

If to fight a duel you ever go,
You must practice for it as you know
The Funny Fox took lessons then,
In his own dark hidden den.

The Funny Fox had not forgotten that the Willful Wolf had thrown down the gauntlet and summoned him to a duel. He had to prepare to meet the Willful Wolf on a certain day, at a certain hour, and he had to practice boxing and he had to exercise and rest regularly. This was the reason he left the Lordly Lion, for he had no time to lose.

Aunty Ape rubbed him all over with a slippery grease, so that the Willful Wolf would not be able to hold onto him for a second!

The Bold Badger boxed with him and taught him much cunning and all his friends helped him to prepare for the coming event.

The day and hour came.

All the animals assembled in the woods and believed that the Funny Fox would not keep his word.

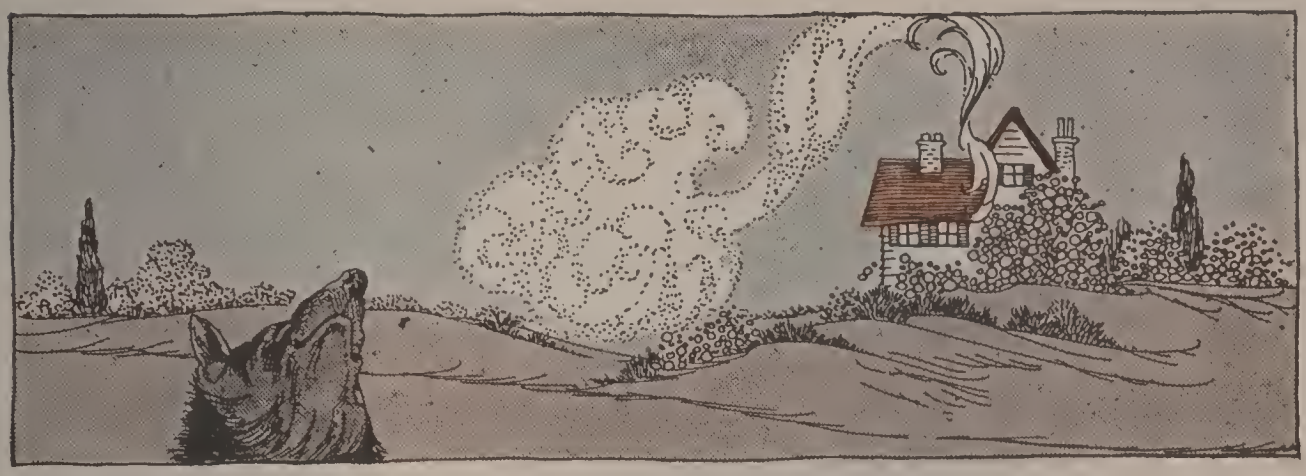
The Careful Cat suggested that no doubt he was now living in fine style in the castle, as he had not been seen in the woods since he escaped from jail.

The Lazy Leopard said the Funny Fox might show up yet at the last minute.

Sure enough, at the last stroke of twelve he came and all his friends with him.

The animals set up a shout "Hurrah! hurrah!"

They all took their places and the duel began.



House of the Willful Wolf Was on Fire

THE DUEL

Oh animals it is not right,
Even to pretend to fight,
Let's be good natured every day,
In our work and in our play.

The Funny Fox first had the advantage, but though the Willful Wolf first could not get hold of him, on account of the grease upon him, he had wonderful use of his tail, and to this day it is not known how the fight would have come out if the Bold Badger had not set up a shout,

"Willful Wolf, fire, fire,
See the flames go higher, higher."

Sure enough, the house of the Willful Wolf was on fire! He went howling and limping

through the woods and the Funny Fox went howling and limping too, to help put the fire out.

There are those who think to this day that the Funny Fox knew who started the fire!

Anyway, the duel was over and the animals returned to their own homes.

The Funny Fox said to his household,

"There is just one certain thing,
I must learn a story about a ring,
What shall I tell about the ring?
I must not disappoint the King."

Mrs. Fox's head went nid-nid-nodding and soon she was fast asleep.

They did not know that the Wise Old Owl was so sleepy that he did not know the outcome of the duel and went off to tell the King that he thought the Funny Fox was hurt in battle!

THE MAGIC HORSE

You can travel fast of course,
If you ride a Magic Horse,
So gallop away, gallop away,
As King's messenger to-day.

Prince Light-Heart heard the King growling and growling.

He growled so hard he nearly shook the crown off his head. He told the Prince to mount the Pony Prancer, and go straight to the woods, and find out the truth of the matter.

Prince Light-Heart knew and loved all the animals and they all knew and loved him.

He rode rapidly away and when he arrived in the woods found the Bold Badger, who in answer to his question, only shook his head, next he met the Careful Cat who had a sad demeanor, and the Amiable Ape who remarked, "Woe is me."

Old Brother Bear shook his head also, but one and all remarked when coaxed to talk,

"The Funny Fox stays in his den,
He does not come out even now and then,
Though he plays tricks, goodness knows
We miss him as you might suppose!"

Prince Light-Heart went "clitter, clatter," to the den.

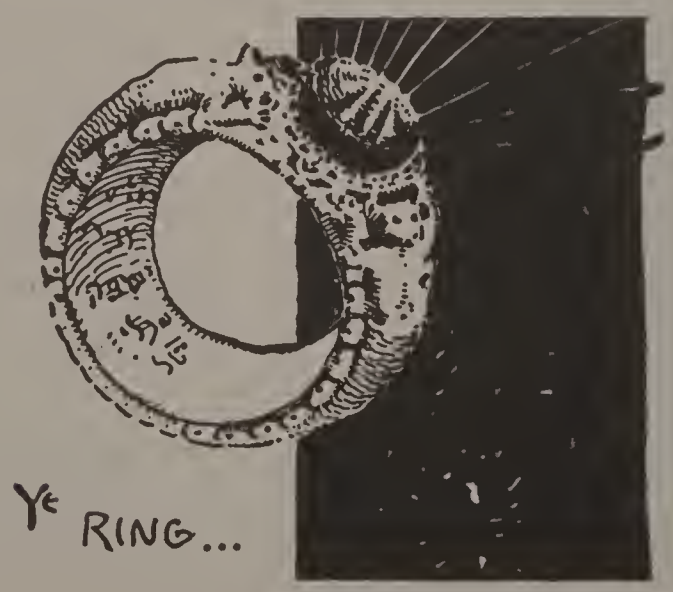
He said,

"Funny Fox, without a doubt,
You'll tell me what this is about,
The sunshine's warm here in the glen,
Why not come out from your den?"

Mrs. Fox came out and made excuses but Prince Light-Heart would come in and rest.

The Funny Fox greeted him and said,

"A Fairy Tale perhaps you bring,
I will present to you this ring."



Only the Magic Ring Could Bring the Princess to Life Again

THE PRINCE

A Fairy Tale on a band of gold,
So the enchanting story is told,
Prince Light-Heart will ride away,
To find the Princess fair to-day!

The Prince was so rejoiced to recover his lost ring that he kissed the Funny Fox and told him that the Princess had been changed to a snake years and years ago, and only by use of this Magic Ring could he bring her to life again.

As soon as he could do this they would be married and have half the kingdom.

The Funny Fox found great favor with the Prince and asked him to dine there. By care-

ful study of the Ring they found the Princess was in a convent garden and the directions read,

> "Travel east and travel west,
> Follow the road you like the best,
> Your pony you must leave of course,
> And ride upon the Wooden Horse."

The Funny Fox clapped his paws and brought forth a Wooden Horse made by his great, great grandfather, and never used.

Prince Light-Heart took the Wooden Horse outside, mounted it, and to his surprise they leaped into the air together and rode to the convent garden.

Mrs. Fox said,

> "I hope the Princess is alive,
> I hope Prince Light-Heart will arrive."

The Funny Fox said,

> "The King will receive us now of course,
> Because of the gift of the Wooden Horse."

All this time the Lordly Lion was waiting for news of the Funny Fox.

THE INVITATION

"The invitations who will write,
All the animals to invite,
The Lordly Lion said, 'What fun,
We'll have a feast for every one'."

The first invitation sent out was to the Patient Pig.

The Patient Pig just danced a jig
When his invitation came,
He said, "I'm glad I'm a Piggie Wig,
And the Patient Pig is my name,

Though I like good things to eat
This fact now appears,
I'm invited to a treat,
The first time in years and years."

He went to show his invitation to the Merry Monkey who was leaping from tree to tree with his best jacket on, with the striped sleeves and rolling collar.

He said, "You are lucky I declare
Patient Pig, what will you wear?"

They talked the matter over and the Patient Pig decided that he looked best in his new checked suit and he was glad to find the Merry Monkey was also invited. They could hardly wait to find out who else was invited and they could hardly wait to find out what they were to have to eat.

As they went along the Zealous Zebra said,

"Our differences we'll put aside,
Now, the invitation has come,
We all will travel far and wide,
There is fun for every one."

The Zealous Zebra was so very polite that the Patient Pig said, "That reminds me of the saying, 'A NEW BROOM SWEEPS CLEAN'."

THE COMICAL CRANE

Said the Comical Crane,
"I stand four feet high,
To learn my call,
I hope you'll try."

The Comical Crane had a wonderful call. He could be heard at a long distance and he cried out in two notes an octave apart. He made such a noise when he received his invitation to the feast that soon he had all the other animals around him, and the joke was, they all came bearing invitations too.

The Celebrated Camel came humping along and remarked,

"We'll start to travel it is clear,
For this is a favorable time of year,
When we start, of fun there'll be no lack,
Now who will travel on my back?"

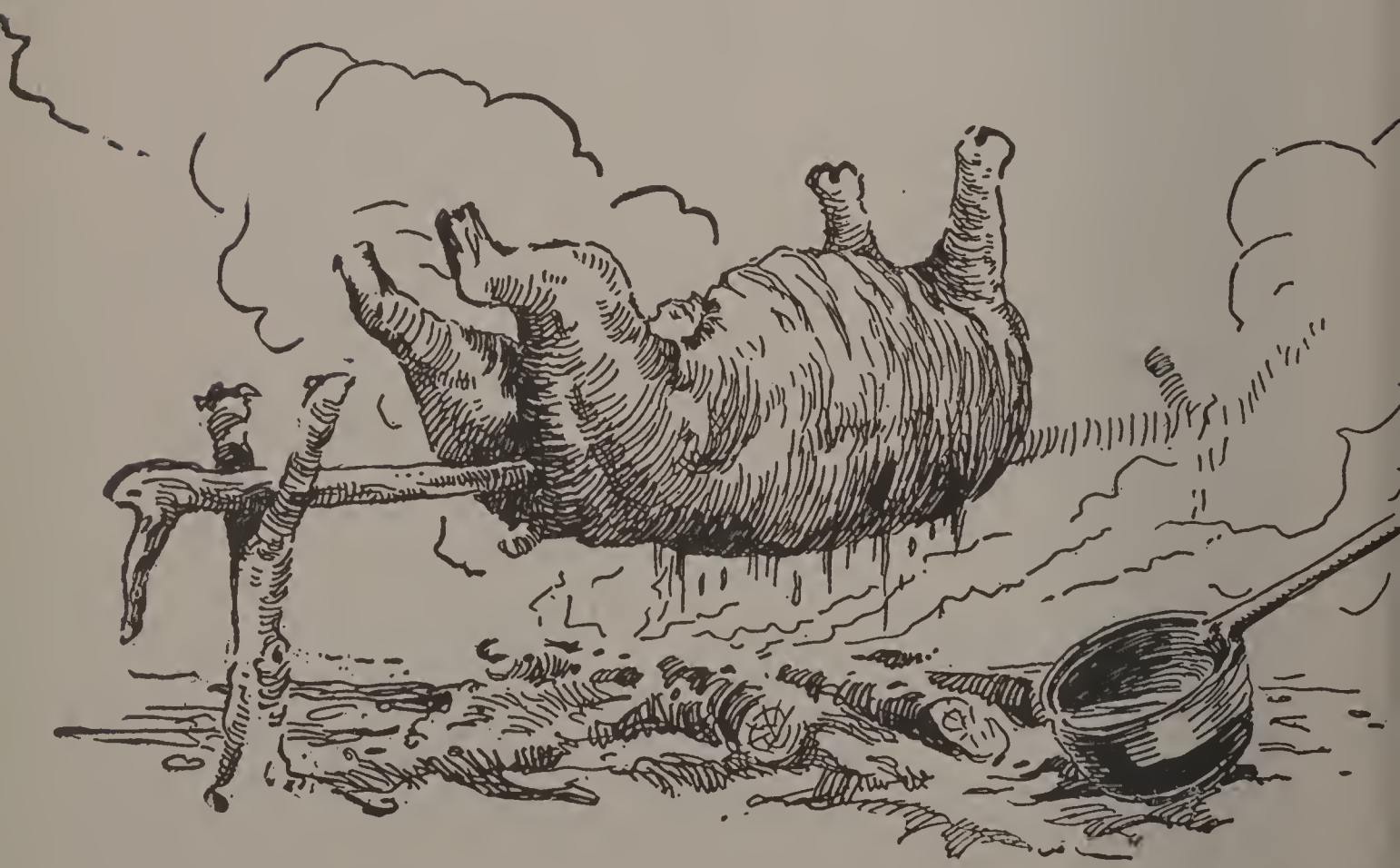
The Faithful Frog replied,

"I believe I'd rather hippety-hop,
Then once in while I'll rest and stop."

He continued "I hope the Lordly Lion will consult our tastes, and have something each one can eat."

The Comical Crane said,

"I'll keep on calling out for you
Let's travel in pairs two and two."



Where Are Your Best Bibs and Tuckers?

DRESSING UP

Oh animals without a doubt,
The invitations all are out,
And of course to be polite
The Funny Fox they must invite.

Such a hurrying and scurrying as there was in the Fox's den. Mrs. Fox said to the children, "Where are your best bibs and tuckers? Where are your new hair-ribbons?"

The Funny Fox said, "Where is my high collar? Where is my gold-headed walking stick?"

Everything was in progress to get ready for the wonderful feast in the castle and every animal was preparing for the journey. The news had spread far and wide through the forest and for once all the animals were friends, and no one even suggested that the Funny Fox might play a trick on them.

The Willful Wolf forgot to be angry over the duel he had fought, and the Crane forgot to be angry with the Willful Wolf for not paying him to take the bone out of his throat, and altogether they were a happy company.

When the Funny Fox heard they were planning to travel in pairs he remarked,

"I'll wear my Magic Boots you see,
I may travel alone or in company,
I've learned this lesson, 'He who smiles,
Can travel merrily miles, and miles'."

Practiced Reciting Verses from Her Mother Goose

THE JOKE

They all had a laugh at the Careful Cat,
As she sat and purred upon her mat,
She said, "I will drink some milk that's sweet,
So I'll surely have quite enough to eat."

Oh, but the Careful Cat looked fine in her new clothes, and she practiced reciting verses from her Mother Goose. She learned every rhyme she could think of that mentioned a cat, so that she could have something to think about at the feast, and something to talk about too.

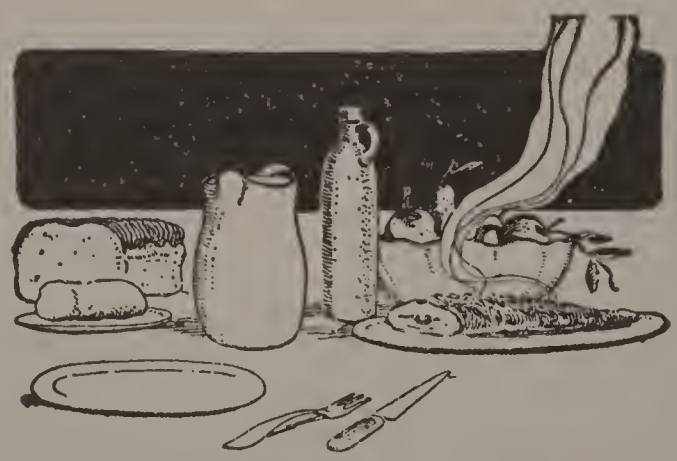
She told her kittens that their feelings must not be hurt if they had to sit at a side table, because one table might not hold all the guests.

At this very minute the Thankful Turkey, thankful because he was not eaten on Thanksgiving Day, came in laughing so hard, it was some time before he could tell the joke.

He said the Amiable Ape was so hard of hearing she did not know the Crane had been calling, and she did not know that the animals were all invited and planning to go together to the feast. She was trying to reply to her invitation and did not know what to write.

The Shy Squirrel said, "I am going to see if I can help her."

The Faithful Frog set off too, and when they arrived at the home of the Amiable Ape, they peeped in the window.



SHY SQUIRREL

We always like to be polite,
The answer then we'll try to write,
We'll answer politely, "yes," or "no"
When we are invited out to go.

The Amiable Ape for once was out of temper. She had upset the ink and blotted the paper. She had a dictionary on one side of her and a bunch of pencils on the other. She had never replied to an invitation before in all her life and she did not understand how to do it.

The Shy Squirrel tapped on the window and the Faithful Frog croaked his loudest.

The Amiable Ape said, "Don't you see,
I have no time for company,
The Lordly Lion bids me come,
To a great feast at his home."

The animals went inside.

The Shy Squirrel took a quill pen and used it as he had seen the Reckless Ram do, and

he wrote, "The Amiable Ape will be pleased to accept the Lordly Lion's kind invitation to the feast, and so on and so on."

The Amiable Ape said, "I do declare,
It is well to have friends everywhere,
I thank you little Squirrel Shy
I am very glad that you came by."

The Faithful Frog wiped the ink spots off the carpet and croaked,

"We'll wait at the edge of the woods for you
We mean to travel two and two."

As He Had Seen the Reckless Ram Do

SOLEMN STORK

The Solemn Stork likes to carry news,
But he wears out all his shoes
The Wood Ibis says, "You can hear me cry,
I stand about thirty inches high,
I am busy with little folks you see,
But hope to join your company,
A riddle I make—and this I write,
What kind of a bird is snowy-white?
It has to brave every kind of weather,
But its head is bare of feathers,
It has a bill that's very long,
And for digging purposes very strong,
It has a long and powerful cry,
And stands as I said thirty inches high,
Can you guess the bird named in this rhyme,
When flying they travel one at a time."

All the animals put on their thinking-caps and for one hour and thirty-two minutes no

one could guess what bird the Stork was talking about. Suddenly, without a bit of warning the Crane let out a cry and then the animals all knew,

The riddle described the Crane you see,
Just as plainly as could be,
It is fun to make a riddle or two,
Just try it yourself to prove it's true!

LAZY LEOPARD

Oh Lazy Leopard will you wake,
Do not make this sad mistake,
Of sleeping on more than an hour at least,
Or you will be late to the feast!

The Lazy Leopard never liked to get up in the morning and when grandfather Leopard bought him an alarm clock, he got so used to it he just turned over and went to sleep again.

The grandfather Leopard said,

"I say this to give you warning,
You must be on time in the morning,
If my bag of smiles you'd wear,
You must be on time I declare."

So the Lazy Leopard had to practice being on time to breakfast, dinner and supper. He made himself a wonderful coat to cover his many spots and he learned the song of the alarm clock,

"Be on time—my rhymes are funny,
Be on time—it's worth much money."

As soon as he learned to be on time grandfather Leopard gave him his bag of smiles. He could use them whenever he pleased for himself or any one else.

When he saw a smile needed any place,
He sent it to light that particular face,
Good folks said, "Life is worth while,
If you'll teach us how to smile,"
Though the Leopard travels west or east
He will be welcome at the feast.

WHAT THEY SAID

Old Brother Bear said, "I can hardly wait
The journey to begin,
I hope they'll have honey sure as fate,
When we all get within."

How Old Brother Bear did like honey!

The Daring Dog said,

"At the feast you can let me alone,
If you'll get me a great big bone."

The Shy Squirrel said,

"Of nuts I hope they'll have a-plenty,
I could eat about six and twenty."

The Amiable Ape said,

"I can be quite happy but,
I hope they'll give me a cocoanut."

The Careful Cat said,

"A castle is finer far than a house,
I hope they'll serve me a nice, fat mouse."

The Lazy Leopard said,

"I know we'll have good things to eat,
I hope they'll serve me lots of meat."

The Patient Pig said,

"I don't mean to make my voice gruff,
But I never truly get enough!"

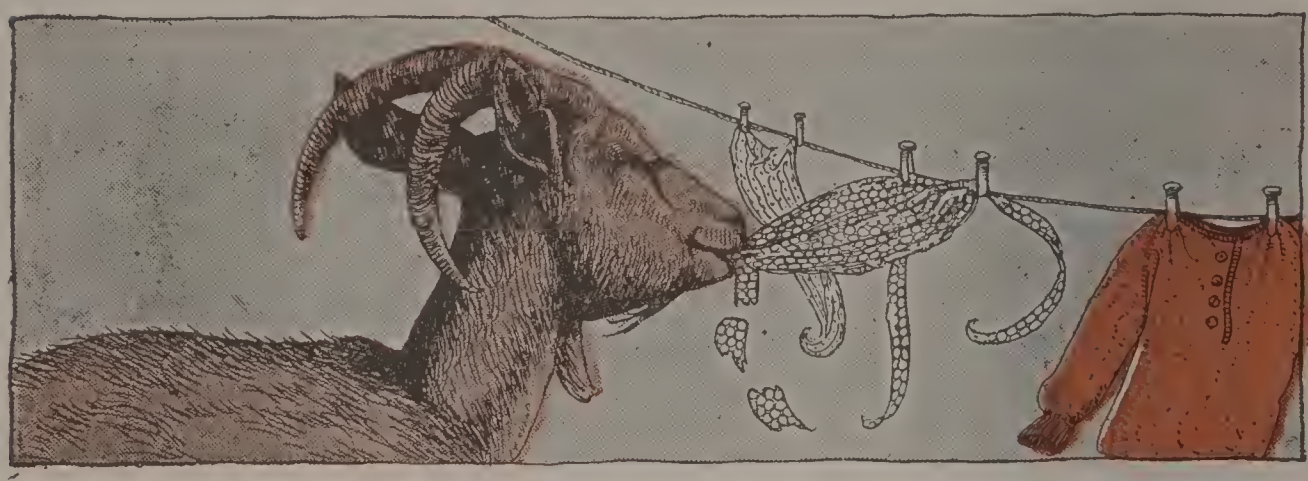
The Merry Monkey said,

"Ha, ha, just listen to my voice,
Some fine ripe fruit will be my choice."

The Funny Fox licked his chops and said,

"Some wishes are better not expressed,
I'll never tell what I like best."

The Thankful Turkey looked nervous and the Happy Hare went off into a corner.



Tearing Some Clothes Off the Line

NOT FOR ME

The Happy Hare said in accents hearty,
"Hurrah, hurrah for the Lion's party,
I hope some cabbages to eat
When at the feast we all will meet."

The Happy Hare ran about all day saying "Cabbages and carrots, cabbages and carrots."

"Not for me," said the Capricious Crane

"Not for me," said the Lazy Leopard.

"Not for me," said the little Black Bear.

"Not for me," said the Gallant Goat.

"Perhaps you would all be good enough to say what you would like to eat then," said the Happy Hare addressing the Gallant Goat.

He liked to tease, so if you please,
He said, "I eat some things like these,"
He held up apron strings you see,
Before that funny company!

Sure enough, he had been tearing some clothes off the line and had eaten up part of the apron that belonged to the Happy Hare.

The Happy Hare remarked,

"It is no use for you or me,
To cry over spilled milk you see."

He meant by this, it was no use to grieve over the apron for it was gone.

The Gallant Goat felt so ashamed he took two silver dollars from his left hand coat pocket and handed them to the Happy Hare, and told him to go and buy a brand new blue and white checked apron. He did this at once singing,

"I have never a care, I do declare,
I'm a Happy Hare, a Happy Hare."

AWAITING THE GUESTS

The Lion said, "Are you aware,
Many good things we must prepare,
For the animals we like best
We will assemble as our guests."

The Lordly Lion suggested to the Queen that they prepare for the grand feast.

"We'll have nuts," suggested the Queen.

The Lordly Lion said, "The Lazy Leopard will not enjoy nuts."

"We will have meat," suggested the Queen.

The Lordly Lion said, "Perhaps the Faithful Frog would not care for meat."

So, they had a great time preparing a bill of fare and they finally decided to have every kind of food they could think of, and they set three tables for the animals!

The Lordly Lion had a new crown made for himself.

Everything went on merrily in the way of preparation for the coming feast. The Lordly

Lion could hardly wait for the great day to come. He had high backed chairs placed at the head of the table for himself and the Queen and said,

"Tick, tick, tock, tick, tick, tock,
I must be patient as the clock,
But as sure as I'm alive,
I wish the guests would soon arrive."

BE PROMPT

If to the feast you'll really go,
You may have to wait an hour or so,
Some folks are prompt as they can be,
And others are behind you see.

"Are we all here?" asked the Funny Fox excitedly running to and fro to count noses!

The Careful Cat remarked,

"I don't know whether I locked my door,
I often made that mistake before."

Of course they had to wait while the Careful Cat ran back to see if she had locked her door.

When all were ready to start again the Lazy Leopard remarked,

"You'll have to wait 'till I get my cart
Without me now please do not start."

When he had brought his cart the Happy Hare cried out,

"Let's take turns, give me a ride,
Let me and the Squirrel sit side by side."

The Willful Wolf said he wanted to ride the first mile, and they had quite a time until the Amiable Ape came and reminded them they all were to choose partners and go two and two as they had agreed. They paired off singing,

"We come from the west, we come from the east,
We all will journey to the feast."

Suddenly some one inquired for the Funny Fox.

He was nowhere to be seen. The Bold Badger who had seen him last remarked,

"He may get there before or after,
He went off and shook with laughter."

The animals all laughed for the Fox would not amuse them at all if he did not play some tricks upon them.

BEFORE THE REST

If you ever give a feast
For either men or beast,
Be careful well to guard the door,
Perhaps I mentioned this before.

The Funny Fox put on his magic boots and ran a mile a minute. He planned to get to the feast before the rest, which he did but the King's Sentinel would not let him pass in so he had to sit and cool his paws, but he knew he must make some excuse to the animals, so he borrowed a camera from the Sentinel and begged so politely to take pictures of the King and Queen, that the Lordly Lion heard his voice and came out saying,

"Funny Fox, you saved my life
You are welcome here, where is your wife?"

The Queen Looked Forward to the Arrival of the Prince and Princess

The Funny Fox said he came a little in advance of the company to relate the story of the ring.

This pleased the Lordly Lion so much that he said, "We will place two more plates at the table for the Prince and Princess may arrive at any minute."

The Funny Fox begged to be allowed to place the extra plates on the table, and the Queen later, missed a plate of cookies!

The Queen looked forward to the arrival of the Prince and Princess,

This was sensible for of course,
They were riding on a Wooden Horse,
And a Wooden Horse with never a care,
Can carry his passengers anywhere.

WELCOME

If you're an animal and alive,
You'll find it is fun to arrive
From the largest to the least,
They all enjoy the lovely feast.

"Hippety-hop, hippety hop," all the animals travelled through the woods and soon they arrived at the great feast.

The Lordly Lion lashed his tail and said,

"Welcome to every bird and beast,
Welcome, welcome to the feast."

The animals found their places at the table.

What a wonderful table it was!

There were cold rolls and hot rolls.

There was cold meat and hot meat.

There was a great pumpkin pie in the center of the table and jugs of milk and honey.

Everything went smoothly until the Patient Pig tried to grab some food and the Amiable Ape looked really cross and shouted,

"Though you're very fat and big
In actions too, do not show the pig!"

The Merry Monkey gave him a severe look and the Patient Pig was so mad at being reminded of his enormous appetite that he merely grunted.

The Tiger suggested a toast to the Leopard and said,

"For you this is my wish,
A long life of happiness!"

Soon they were all drinking each others health and shouting, "Long live the Lordly Lion, long live the Lioness, long live the Funny Fox!"

THE SMILE BAG

Be entertaining at the table,
At least so far as you are able,
The hours that come for laugh and song
Right merrily will speed along.

Some of the animals forgot their table manners.

The Thankful Turkey said,

"Did you really mean to tease,
I don't like nuts if you please."

Sure enough, the nuts were by his place at the table and the Patient Pig remarked,

"I'm the Patient Pig but like as not
We should have our muffins smoking hot."

Old Brother Bear said,

"I'm Old Brother Bear, I do declare,
I can't see the honey anywhere."

The animals were busy passing things to eat and the Patient Pig got in a hurry again and began to sample everything in front of him. The Amiable Ape lost her temper and said,

"If you don't mind your P's and Q's
We'll send you out-doors if we choose."

At this very minute the Lazy Leopard opened his bag of smiles. He said,

"Here is a smile for every face,
Here is the hour, time and place,
Here is happiness for every beast
Smile now and enjoy the feast."

My, how the smiles flew to the faces of the animals!

They all cried, "Long live the Leopard."

You may mind it, but we do not
That the Lazy Leopard can't change his spots.

MERRY TIME

Merry, merry is the feast
Enjoyed by both bird and beast
They sit at the table a long time
And tell stories in prose and rhyme.

The Careful Cat recited so many verses from Mother Goose telling how her great grandmother once went to London to see the Queen and so on, that the Funny Fox rang a bell and shouted, "Ding, dong bell, Pussy's in the well."

The Lordly Lion was amused and said,

"Here is just the very thing,
The Fox will tell about the ring,
He may relate too, of course,
The story of the Wooden Horse,
And Prince, and Princess, as to-day
We hope they are not far away,
We'll laugh and sing, the Prince will bring
With him of course, the Magic Ring."

The Funny Fox saw they expected him to tell a Fairy Tale, but he was enjoying a bone so he said,

"Did you ever hear the song,
Not very short or long,
Of the funny Magic Shoes,
That go far to carry news?"

Some of the company had heard the story and some of them had not. Those who had heard about the Magic Shoes told the story as they had heard it, and no two stories agreed.

The Willful Wolf looked cross-eyed and said,

"The Funny Fox might tell to-day
Of the Magic Boots now anyway."

SINGING

The Funny Fox began to scold,
He pretended that he had a cold,
The Bold Badger began to sing a song,
Not very short—not very long.

He sang to the tune of "Yankee Doodle."

"If to the woods you often go,
So early in the morning,
Look out which way the wind doth blow,
I give you all fair warning.

Chorus.

Ha, ha, ha, the Fox is out,
You may see him dancing,
Ha, ha, ha, the Fox is out
Retreating or advancing."

The Bold Badger helped the Fox out by singing the song over and over till every one learned it.

The Funny Fox did not know much about the ring he had given the Prince, and was afraid to tell a story about it.

The Queen said,

"A Fairy Tale is the very thing
Who will tell about the Ring?"

Every one looked at the Funny Fox.

He began a merry little dance.

He danced on his toes as you suppose,
He even danced on the tip of his nose.

They were all so pleased to see the dance, they forgot about the story. The Funny Fox danced to the switch that turned off the lights and he left the whole company in darkness.

In his Magic Boots he travelled a mile
And still he wore a pleasant smile.

THE RIDDLE

Said the Patient Pig, "It now appears,
I have lived for years and years,
Some things I cannot quite express,
But here is a riddle for you to guess."

They got the lights turned on again and the Patient Pig began to tell his riddle.

"One animal with a bushy-tail
Is always cunning without fail,
Every secret that he hears
He remembers years and years.
He invites us now and then
To visit him down in his den,
His name begins with F, and so
You may guess in an hour I know."

The animals laughed and their merry eyes twinkled.

The Thankful Turkey was the first to shout, "The Funny Fox."

He next said,

"There's a big animal with a curly tail
To name him you can scarcely fail
When I tell you at any kind of treat
He never gets enough to eat."

The Thankful Turkey Was the First to Shout

They all shouted "The Patient Pig."

The animals made so many riddles they forgot that

They were waiting for something else of course,
The arrival of the Wooden Horse.

THE WOODEN HORSE

If you ride a horse of wood,
You may not arrive just as you should,
But it has a Magic sound
To ride high o'er the ground.

When Prince Light-Heart arrived at the convent he put on a suit of armor and by use of the Magic Ring turned the snake into the Pretty Princess. She was more than willing to mount the Wooden Horse with him. She did not wait for any wraps but mounted behind the Prince.

"Don't let me fall off," she cried.

"Hold on tight," shouted the Prince.

The Pretty Princess said,

"I love every bird and beast
I hope we'll arrive at the feast."

Faster and faster went the Wooden Horse, high up over house-tops, valley and hill.

They arrived at the castle just as the animals were preparing to leave the table.

"I knew the time and place of course,"
Said the wonderful Wooden Horse.
"Our journey was not fast or slow,
But I am glad to rest you know.
We travelled west and travelled east
And still expect to have a feast,
We all have reason to rejoice,"
Said the Wooden Horse in his wooden voice.

THE MESSAGE

This story very soon will end,
So, if you like it, tell a friend,
And when it's really, truly over,
Read again from cover to cover.

"Hark," cried the Lordly Lion, "I hear the clatter of wooden feet."

The Queen said,

"I hear the clatter of feet of course,
It is the wonderful Wooden Horse!"

At this very minute the Wooden Horse poked his head in the door and said,

"The Prince and Princess are alive,
We are very happy to arrive."

The Princess smoothed her beautiful hair and straightened her pretty beads. The Prince

slipped out of his armor and the King and Queen insisted they take their places at the table, and ordered,

More coffee, more rolls, more cakes and spice
More apples, more honey and everything nice.

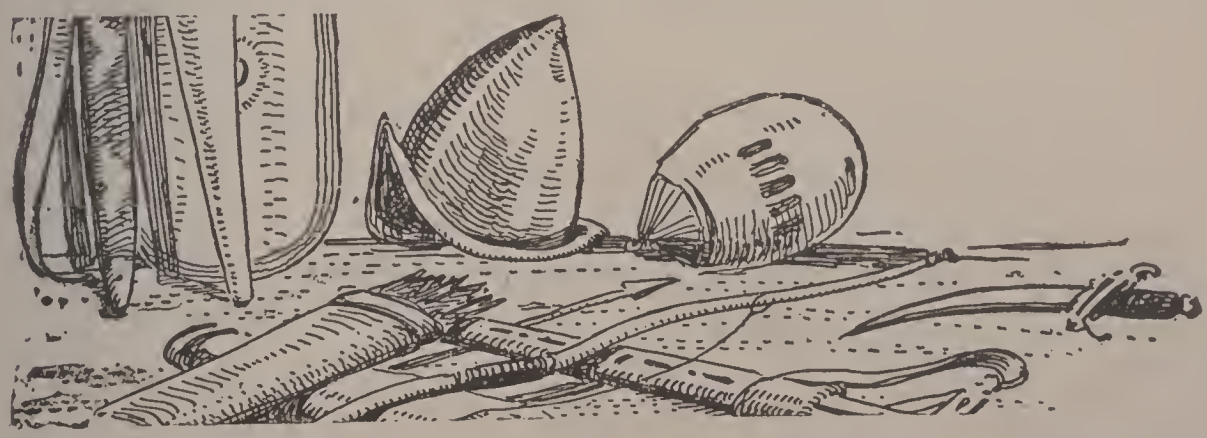
So, the feast began all over again, and the Prince and Princess told of their travels, and the Prince rubbed the Magic Ring and the Lordly Lion became a real King and the Lioness a real Queen, and they divided their kingdom with the Prince and Princess.

While all this was going on, the Wooden Horse felt his nose quite out of joint and sat in a corner and said,

"My wooden legs were once my pride,
Will no one jump on me and ride?"

The Funny Fox peeped in the window and shouted,

"We'll be most happy to ride of course,
You are a wonderful Wooden Horse."



Crowned Him With a Laurel Wreath

The Wooden Horse has ways so funny,
Quite worth the admission money.
Wherever he'll go, you really know,
He'll dance and prance his skill to show.

The Funny Fox whispered in one ear of the Wooden Horse, and the Willful Wolf whispered in the other.

The Happy Hare had such big ears he could hear things not meant for all and he shouted,

"We will have a jolly ride you see,
If you take the whole company!"

All the animals wanted to ride the Wooden Horse.

The Funny Fox Was the Last One to Leave

He was pleased at being so popular, and though they crowded each other, he took them all home, and dropped them on the way one at a time.

The Funny Fox was the last one to leave and he invited the Wooden Horse to live with him again for a year and a day.

The Wooden Horse went out many times after that, and the Happy Hare often rode on him and cried,

"You're a wonderful Horse I do declare
While I am only a tiny Happy Hare."

By and by the King sent for the Funny Fox and crowned him with a laurel wreath, for he liked him and enjoyed his jokes so much. The Funny Fox wrote all his jokes in a book and said,

"Tales of love and tales of laughter,
Are the things we're looking after,
So turn the pages merrily
And you'll have many a laugh with me."

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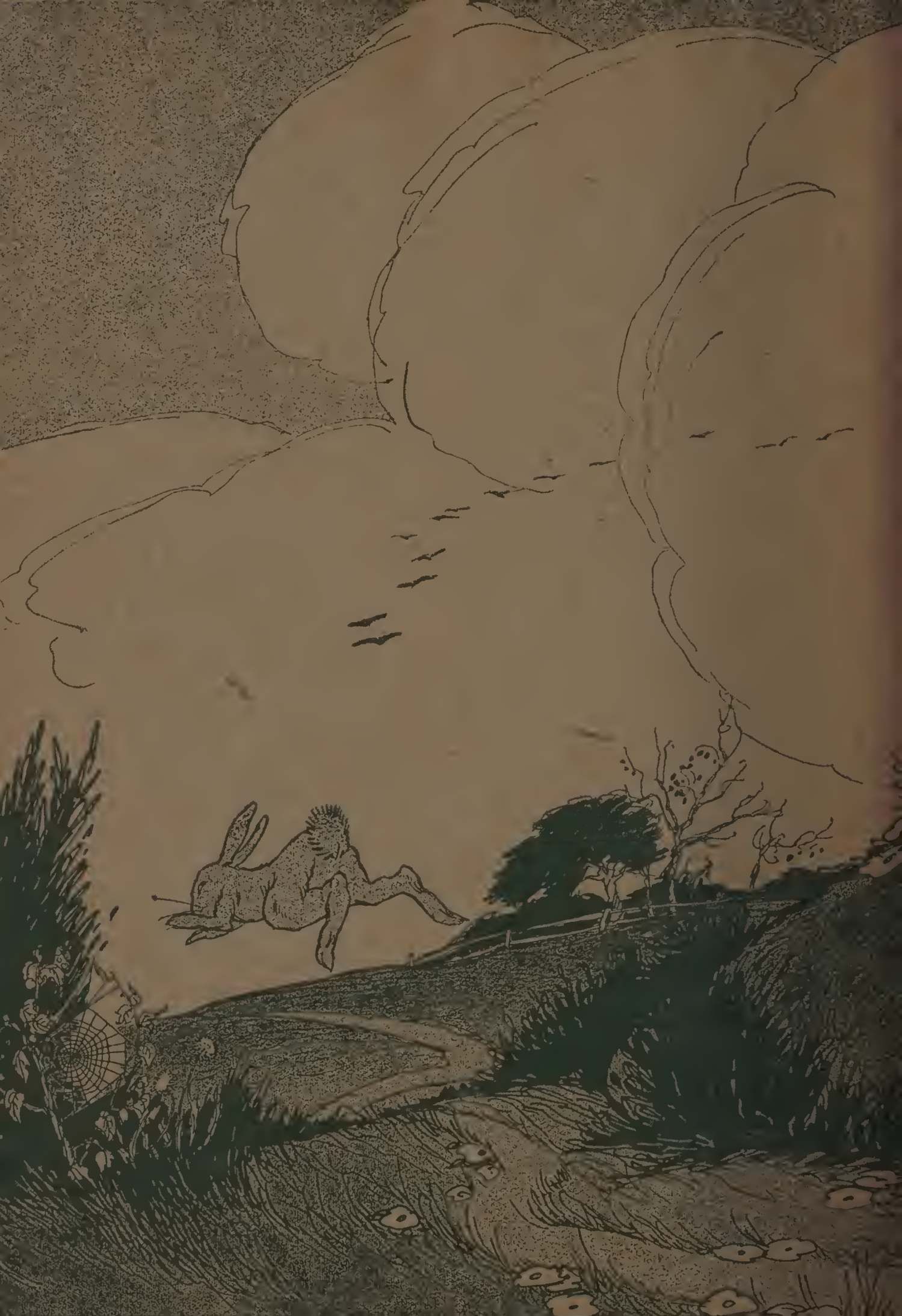

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